Notes from Islam in the World
by Dr Zaki Ali (1938)

Mohammad born 20th April 571 A.D.
" migrate 16th June 622 A.D.
" read at Christ (Quba) Medina 20th Sept 622 A.D.
" died 8th June 632 A.D. (11 A.H.)
Battle of Badr - in Ramzan A.H. 2 - March 624 A.D.
Sadi died 1264 A.D.

1300 Years of the Caliphate
29 years, 632-661 A.D. at Medina
89 years, 661-750 (749) Omayyad at Damascus
508 years, 750-1258 (1517) at Bagdad
256 years 1261-1517 Mamelukes (Fatimite) at Cairo
407 years 1517-1924 Ottoman Turks at Constantinople

Khalifa Mamun died 833 A.D. (218 Hijri)
Selim I of Ottomans conquered Medina & Mecca in 1517/18 as also Cairo

Minor phases. Caliphate of Cordova in Spain, Caliphate of Shiite & Khajite Schisms

In the Course of the 13th Century the Ottomanlis were able to establish themselves in Asia Minor in 1358, then crossed into Europe & in 1453 Constantinople fell into their hands and the Byzantine Empire came to an end. Not long after this the Ottoman Turks were able to secure their position as the leaders of the world of Islam.

First period of decadence of the Khalifat from the time of Al Mo'tasem to the fall of Bagdad 833-1258 A.D. (218-756 Hijri)

The first diplomatic document known which applies the word Calif and Imam to the Ottoman Sultan is the Treaty of Kucheck Jamarji with Russia in 1744

Islamic Civilisation

Science attracted the attention of Al-Mansur (AD 754) who applied himself, among other things to astronomy. The most splendid memorial who, however, established for himself as patron of art & science by the Caliph Al-Mamun (813-833), who brought together the largest collection of writings and founded a special institution for translating, placing it under the direction of distinguished scholars.....

The Arabian passion for Greek manuscript was so great that the Arab confiscated a copy of the Hippocrates or seized a codex of Dioscorides as the prize of victory; Al-Mansur sent messengers to Constantinople for the works of Euclid; Harun-al-Rashid, in dictating the terms to the defeated emperor of the Byzantines, specified Greek manuscript as his most coveted booty---.

The tendency towards travel, stimulated by the great extention of the Islamic dominion, was very wide spread. It arose not only from religious impulses (pilgrimage) or commercial interests, but also from pure thirst for knowledge.

Arabs firmly established in Andalusia in heterogeneous Spain since 711 A.D

The Arabs introduced the Indian numerical system into mathematics, improved the fundamental arithmetical operations. The Zero was unknown till the 12th century A.D when it was invented by an Arab mathematician named Mohammad ibn Musa, who was also the first to use the decimal notation & who gave the digits the value of position.

Algebra = Al-Jabr wal-Muqabala } Al-Khawarazmi
Logarithm = Al-gorithm

Ptolemy's estimate of the size of the Earth was checked upon

Explorers: Al-Makdisi (tenth century); Al-Biruni (973-1048), who is the words of George Sarton "was one of the very greatest scientists of Islam, and all considered, one of the greatest of all times."

Chemistry; Khalid ibn Yazid ibn Moawiya 704 A.D. (A.H 80);
Geber (or Abu Musa Jaber ibn Hayyan) 9th century

Alchemists 3rd century A.H Zun-Nun al-Misri; Ibn Al-Wahishiya

Physicians:-

Avicenna (Abu Sina) 980-1037; Intellectual prodigy
town of Hamadan (Persia) - a Persian

Rhazes - real name Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Zakariya d. 932 A.D.

Islam in the World.

Islam is not only a religion, it is also a civilisation. It not only directs a man's theology, it forms his society. It is thus a way of life, a way of thinking & acting, a "Weltanschauung" (outlook on the world) which embraces every aspect of human activity. In a way 'Islam' & 'religion' are equivalent terms. It seeks not only to satisfy the spiritual nature of man, but his material nature as well. It develops body as well as soul. It harmonises the individual & the social interest of man. It harmonises the egoistic and altruistic motives of man. In short faith and reason, religion and science, spirit and matter, socialism & individualism, egoism & altruism, conservatism & liberalism, authority & liberty are not only reconciled, but harmonised in one single whole & employed as a means for the purpose of establishing the Abode of Peace Dar-es-Salam or the Islamic State, in which human being should be able to live like true brothers & sisters in peace & prosperity. This is the chief object of Islam

Ref. No. 1938

arrive at mutual understanding in every respect quicker than ten members of any other international association. This Islamic feeling of fraternity constitutes a real element of true internationalism in this modern age.....

As a religion, it is plain fact that Islam is spreading in the world, not excepting Europe & the New World. The absence of priesthood; the simple, rational creed which characterises a natural progressive religion, the sense of devotion and price of faith, and common loyalty to the Quran and the precept of the Prophet are all vital forces in Islam.

Islam is a supremely uniting faith: One God, One Faith, One Brotherhood, One Sacred Law. Its religious system is so simple & rational that it can hardly be called dogma for it appeals to human nature & reason. It commends itself to the intellect of man and it is able to satisfy the deepest needs of his soul. Islam came preaching that God was accessible to all. He required no saintly intercessors, and the humblest might approach Him and seek His mercy.... In exerts attraction as a social force, it seeks to overcome the troubles of life and thus it gains perpetual moral strength. The new convert from whatever race or caste obtains through Islam civil recognition and the consciousness of human dignity. Thus Islam prepares men to be good citizens, for it stands for good fellowship and a fair deal and equality for everyone and thus keeps man in a right relationship with his fellowmen. In practice, in the Muslim world, neither birth nor colour has prevented men from reaching the highest position. Islam offers a chance to all races and all of them have availed themselves of it in the measure of their talent. Islam, by ensuring mental & moral

by a religious control which extends into every area of conduct. Never is the Muslim permitted to forget his religion and his God..... Here is one day a week, Friday, upon which congregational prayers are offered..... Muslims all over the world utter the words of the holy Quran and genuflect towards that spot in the desert that the world knows as Mecca— the birth place of Islam and its Prophet, the Holy City of Islam and the Spiritual Capital of the Muslim world.

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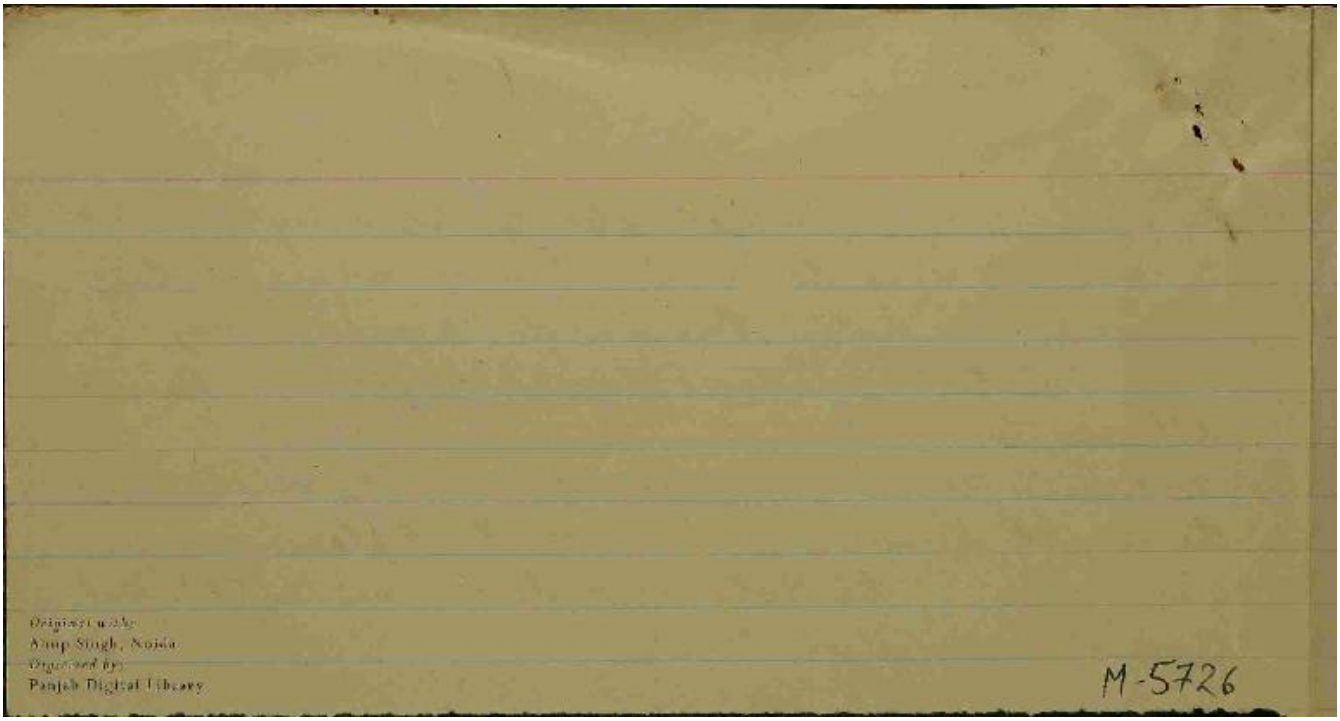
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